TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

LUTHERAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LUTH. HIST. SOC.
PROCURED
FROM
M. SHEFFINGH.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

FOR

NORTH CAROLINA AND ADJOINING STATES;

BEGAN AND HELD IN

GUILFORD COUNTY, MAY 1st, 2d, 3d, & 4th, A. D. 1825.

For 17, 19, 20, 22, Vl,
see other bound vol.

(Dr. Schmucker's series
and the odd volumes)

Salisbury:

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1825.

TRANSACTIONS, &c.

According to a resolution of the last Synod, the members of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA, AND ADJACENT STATES, *assembled on the first Sunday in May, A. D.* 1825, *in the Brick Church, Guilford county, N C.*

On the Saturday previous, the Rev. Martin Walther preached in German on 2 Cor. 8, 9; and the Rev. Samuel Hersher in English on Jer. 3, 10, 11. The Rev. Mr. Shober baptised four children, and the Rev. Jacob Sherer held the preparatory meeting for the communicants.

Sunday, May 1st, divine service was opened by the Rev. Mr. Shober, with an appropriate hymn and prayer, and a Synodal sermon on Mark 16, 15; after him the Rev. Wm. Jenkins preached in English, on iv. Mos. 14, 24: after which the Holy Sacrament was administered to about 70 communicants. In the afternoon, the Rev. Sam'l. Hersher preached in English, on Jer. 8, 22. No doubt, many of the numerous congregations could from experience say, "A day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere: I had rather be door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the house of wickedness."

Monday, May 2d, at 9 o'clock, the last year's President opened the Synodal meeting with an appropriate hymn and prayer.

The following Ministers were present:

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

G. SHOBER, from Salem, Stokes county.
JACOB SHERER, Guilford county.
DANIEL SHERER, Rowan county.
MARTIN WALTHER, Bottetout county, Va.
JACOB MILLER, Stokes county.

CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

JACOB GRIESON, from Guilford county.
WILLIAM JENKINS, from Bedford, Tennessee.
JOHN REICHERT, from Davidson county, N. C.

The following Ministers were absent: The Rev. C. A. Storke; and also, Adam Grimes.

Candidate Phillip Roth had last fall departed, (as we hope) in the Lord, where his works of love have followed him; he was zealous for the truth, as it is in Christ Jesus; loved what is good, and lived as a true disciple of Jesus.

The following Lay Deputies attended:

Peter Lœffler and Andrew Sherer, from Jacob Sherer's congregation; Henry Krank from Mr. Walther's congregations; Jacob Hilsebeck, William Hoffman and Martin Rippel, from Mr. Shober's congregations; Jacob Zink, from congregations on Abbot's creek; John Shaffner, from Mr. Jenkins' congregations; John Bostel, from congregations in Iredell; George Bost, from Organ church; Lewis Wilhelm, from Sewitz's congregation; George Barringer, from John's and Bethel's congregations in Cabarrus and Montgomery counties.

By the majority, it was now *Resolved*, that the officers for this year should be elected by ballot—and according thereto, the Rev. G. SHOBER was elected *President*, and the Rev. JACOB SHERER, *Secretary*.

No. 1. On motion,* it was *Resolved*, that the following Ministers should have a seat and vote: Rev. John Rudy, reformed minister; Rev. John Charles Shenberg, travelling preacher from Pennsylvania; and the Rev. Samuel Hersher, deputy from the Evangelical Lutheran Conference in South-Carolina: they were accordingly introduced, and took their seats.

2. Letters and petitions which were addressed to this Synod, were then handed in and numbered: and it was *Re-*

* N. B. When it is here in these transactions said "on motion," it is to be understood that it was seconded; for no motion is received without.

solved, that two committees should be appointed to examine and report thereon.

Committee No. 1. Rev. Jacob Sherer, Rev. Jacob Miller, Jacob Hilsebeck and George Barringer, received the letters.

Committee No. 2. Rev. Daniel Sherer, Rev. Martin Walther and George Bost, received the petitions.

3. The following donations were then handed in:

From John's church, Cabarrus county, -	$8	3½
William Jenkins - - - -	1	
The Organ church, Rowan county -	2	20
John Bostel - - - -	1	
Mr. Shober's congregation - -	2	
Congregations on Abbot's Creek -	1	42½
Sewitz's congregation, Rowan county	1	70
Bethel's church, Montgomery county		93½
The Union congregation, Rowan county	1	35
Zion's church, in Davidson county		50
Lowe's congregation, Guilford county	1	97½
Another congregation, do. - -	3	
A friend - - - - -	1	
	$25	94

This money was given into the hands of the Treasurer; and the Rev. Wm. Jenkins, John Shaffner and John Bostel, were appointed a committee to examine and settle his accounts.

4. The Rev. Jacob Miller then preached in English, on Romans 3, 29; and the Rev. Daniel Sherer in German, on Mal. 1, 7.

5. The Treasurer then reported, that it appeared impossible to sell the book called *Luther*, for 75 cents a piece; it was therefore, on motion, decided, that such of those books as are now unsold, should be offered and sold for 50 cents, and the damaged ones cheaper.

After these preliminary decisions, the minutes of our last Synod were read. The Ministers then handed in their parochial reports.

6. *NAMES OF PREACHERS.*	*Congregations.*	*Children baptised.*	*Adults baptised.*	*Confirmed.*	*Communicants.*	*Buried.*
Gotlieb Shober - - -	4	15	3	22	150	
Daniel Sherer - - -	6	208	2	82	393	36
Jacob Sherer - - -	5	52		46	303	9
Martin Walther - - -	5	54	2	20	141	4
Jacob Miller - - -	3	48		19	80	18
William Jenkins - - -	4	48		19	80	18
Jacob Grieson - - -						4

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7. On motion, it was *Resolved*, that our Ministers, who at our last Synod received particular charges, should hand in concise reports of their transactions, that the same may be entered in our minutes.

In conformity with the above resolution, the following reports were laid on the table:

Rev. Daniel Sherer says, "On the 27th of July I departed from home for Virginia, there to accomplish the charges I was entrusted with. On the following Sunday, I preached in one of the Rev. Martin Walther's congregations, in both languages, to numerous and attentive congregations: On the succeeding Sunday, I preached in two congregations in the neighborhood of New Market, in the forenoon in Solomon's, and in the afternoon in Rater's churches. On Monday I visited the Rev. Samuel Schmucker, where I was treated with brotherly love and kindness: I have reason to believe that he labors with much blessing in his congregations. From there I travelled to Pendleton county, to my former congregations, who received me with joy; I preached among

them, and in one congregation I confirmed eleven children, and administered the Lord's Supper to 51 communicants. The Rev. Wm. Riemenshnider has two congregations in this neighborhood; some of his people were, however, displeased with him because he inclines to connect himself with the Tennessee confederation. The Rev. Van der Shlott, a reformed minister, has also two congregations, among whom he labors with great applause and evident blessing: two other congregations are without a minister, and begged with sighs and tears, that we would not forget them. I travelled about 1000 miles, preached 26 times, baptised 14 children, confirmed 11, administered the Sacrament to 51, and buried 2. On my journey I received 50 dollars; and, as I travelled with my family, to visit my father-in-law, I spent 42 dollars and 50 cents.

8. The Rev. Wm. Jenkins reports, "According to the resolution of the last Synod, I preached in the Rev. Mr. Shober's congregations during his absence in Pennsylvania, and, as I believe, with applause and blessing. In September, I travelled to the Lutheran congregations on Duck River, in Tennessee; they received me with joy, and have, until now, treated me very lovingly, and with christian-like charity. With much pleasure I preached in those two congregations which were already formed, and I formed two others in the counties of Franklin and Lincoln: There is a wide field open here for Lutheran ministers who preach Christ and him crucified, and who follow him as their grand pattern: the desire after such preachers is on the increase—from all parts I was invited to preach in court-houses and other places. There is a settlement on Taugunder river, near Jackson, where there are many Lutherans, who no doubt would rejoice if they could be visited and regularly attended to. "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few; therefore, let us pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out faithful laborers." Since last Synod, I travelled 3000 miles, preached 175 times, baptised 84 children and 7 adults; also, 7 negroes, and received 24 persons as full members of our church. I preached also 8 funerals.

9. The Rev. Jacob Sherer reports, "According to the reslution of last Synod, I visited sundry congregations, and preached also in districts where there are no ministers: I believe that many congregations could yet by us be established in this state, if we had well qualified English preachers, whom we could send to labor in vacant parts. Would it not be a good plan, as soon as possible, to establish circuits for travelling preachers?* Many of the inhabitants of Lincoln county are sorry that our former fellow laborer, Daniel Mozer, hath left us, and contrary to their expectation, connected himself with the Tennessee confederation; and some of his elders and sundry members will not be connected with them, but remain united with us as formerly.—With our former attorney, in fact, Mr. Harke, in Lincolnton, I have settled as follows:

[N. B. It is to be understood, that he was appointed to settle with Philip Henkel for 500 books called Luther, which he engaged to take at 75 cents; and pay the same to our Treasurer, first deducting expenses—he of course owed 375 dollars] on which he paid in 1820 36 75

He refused to pay more, and for peace sake Mr. Harke was authorized in 1821 to settle with him, and receive unsold books.

Henkel charged for carriage from Baltimore -	$22 80
For damaged books given away - - -	3
For his trouble - - - - - -	5
He paid to Mr. Harke, and he to us - -	26 70
Mr. Harke charges for expenses to Tennessee	8
For carriage of books from Tennessee - -	6
Received books back, 357, at 75 - - -	267 75
There are, however, three books wanting	
	$375 00

This day the session was concluded by a hymn and prayer; and in the same manner the session commenced on Tuesday, the 3d, at 9 o'clock.

It was then, on motion, *Ordered*, that no member of the Synod should absent himself, without having asked and received permission of the President.

* Surely, and Amen! But, friends, give us the means.—*Translator.*

The first committee now reported, as follows:

No. 1. is a letter from the Rev. Sen. minister, Charles A. Stork, in which he commiserates that sickness prevented him again from being with us: that he owns himself to be a member of our Synod, as usual; and that he wishes unto us the blessing from above.

The committee recommends his unavoidable absence to be excused; which report and recommendation were adopted. And *Resolved*, further, that the Rev. President write a letter in the name of the Synod, to the Rev. Mr. Stork, in the most endearing expressions, and inform and assure him of our tender participation in his long protracted ailment, and to thank him for his kind participation in our meeting and the welfare of our church.

No. 2, is a letter from Catechet Adam Grimes, living now in Wilkes county, N. C. in which he regrets that he could not possibly be with us at this Synod; he prays for success to our transactions, and that his license to preach the Gospel and baptise, may be renewed.

The committee recommends that his absence be excused; and that his license be renewed until the next Synod, with the expectation that he will meet the next time, and make a report of his exertions to build up churches. This report was adopted.

The second committee reported, that

No. 1, contains petitions from Bedford, Franklin and Lincoln counties, West Tennessee, signed by 97 persons, who praise the conduct of the Rev. Mr. Jenkins, and pray that this synod may appoint him as their stationed preacher; and two of his lately established congregations pray to be received by this Synod.

This report was adopted, and Mr. Jenkins appointed and licensed accordingly: and, resolved, that the two new congregations are with joy received by this Synod; and that the members of them, as also those which Mr. Jenkins

received in the old congregations; and such as he and his vestry shall in future receive and admit to the Lord's supper, be accepted as full members of our church.

No. II. is a petition from Illinois, Union county, signed by 43 persons, who pray to receive Lutheran or reformed Preachers who can preach in both languages, in order that love and union may be effected among them, German schools established, and that language be retained. They say that if their wants are not soon supplied, the consequences would be very detrimental to them and to their children.

The committee regrets it much that we have no minister now, whom we could send to them as a standing preacher; and adviseth that the Rev. Mr. Jenkins might receive it in charge, to visit the petitioners once during the year, if possible, and that this Synod would provide a standing preacher for them as soon as possible. The committee further recommends that the said petition may be read to the Synod.

This report was accepted, the petition read, and resolved, that the secretary inform the congregations in Illinois of the above resolution, and to request them to write a letter to Mr. Jenkins, if it is their desire to be visited by him. Also, resolved, that the secretary write to the Rev. Samuel Shmucker, and to solicit him, if possible, to send a travelling minister to Illinois.

No. III. This is a petition from Lincoln county, N. C. in which it is stated, that the congregation left it to the vestry of Grace Church to decide whether we should be invited to have our Synod next year in Lincoln county; according to which, the members of the vestry invited this Synod by the most friendly expressions, to have our meeting next year in Grace Church; and, in the petition it was further added, that two members of the vestry of another congregation in Lincoln county, had asserted that it was the desire of many members in their neighborhood, to be visited by ministers from our Synod, as they desired to belong to our Synod now, as well as before.

The committee adviseth, that the said memorial may be openly read,—that the congregations in Lincoln might be visited, as desired—and that it be left to the Synod to determine where our next Synod is to convene.

The above report was postponed for the afternoon, then adopted, and the memorial read—see also the minutes of Wednesday.

No. IV. is a memorial from St. Michel's congregation in Iredell county, N. C. signed by 39 members, who pray im-

pressively for a stated minister; and that if they could not now receive one, they may be visited as often as possible.

The committee again regrets that for want of ministers, we could not fully accomplish the prayer of the memorialists, and adviseth that the Rev. Jacob Sherer and the Rev. Mr. Shenberg, be charged by this Synod to visit them as soon as possible, to administer the Lord's supper to them, and that the ministers of this Synod visit the said congregation as often as possible, and particularly the Rev. Jacob Miller, until they can be provided with a stationed minister.

In the afternoon this report was considered, adopted, and the charge accepted by the said ministers.

No. V. contains a petition to renew the licence of John G. Richart, and evidence of his moral conduct.

The committee recommends that the prayer be granted.

This report was adopted, and the licence executed.

No. VI. is a memorial from the congregations on Abbot's creek, Davidson county, signed by 38 members, who desire to remain under the superintendance of this Synod; and they pray for a stationed minister, and that, if they could not receive a regular administration, that they might be visited often.

The committee recommends that the Rev. Mr. Shenberg should, if possible, connect himself with the said congregations as their stated minister, and expects that they will receive and support him; should this not succeed, the committee adviseth that they may be visited as often as possible.*

This report was adopted in the afternoon, and Mr. Shenberg was willing to make a trial.

No. VII. is a memorial from the majority of the members of the vestries out of the Rev. Jacob Sherer's congregations, in which they desire and pray that this Synod would have nothing printed in answer to a libellous publication said to be issued by a selection from the Tennessee confederation, referring to our Synod—as this Synod was denominated therein '*a so called Synod, and calling itself so*,' and they not calling this Synod by the same title which it had before the preachers of the now Tennessee Confederation deserted from us.

The committee unanimously agreed with the prayer of the memorialists, and that nothing should be answered. Daniel

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* The churches were erected for the Lutherans and reformed; and from Tennessee arose such a split, that it is insisted that the minority, and not the majority, should govern; and thus are the members of both communions divided, so that no part can support a stated minister. But woe unto him, by whom offence cometh.—*Translator.*

Sherer, Martin Walther, George Bost, Wm. Hoffman, committee No. 2.

No. VIII. This report was adopted, and further *Resolved*, that in future this Synod will take no notice of any pamphlet in print or manuscript, whose contents are offensive, or of a nature to create discordance and ill will in the congregations; but, that such shall be treated with silence and contempt.

Hereupon the Rev. President preached the last public sermon during this Synod, on Eph. 6, 24.

IX. The committee which was appointed to examine the Treasurer's account, reported:

We have carefully examined the Treasurer's account, and found that he received to this day, since the last settlement $58 89, and that he paid out $54 26. The balance of $4 63 in his hands, this 3d day of May, 1825.

This report was adopted, and the Rev. Mr. Shober accepted to serve again as Treasurer; and he reported, that according to a charge of last Synod, he had endeavored to collect dues by love and legal means.

X. On motion, it was *unanimously Resolved*, That the second article of our constitution be thus amended: "that every Synod had the privilege to appoint time and place of the next succeeding Synod."

Likewise, on supported motion, *unanimously Resolved*, That the 7th article of our constitution be so amended, that the word "legal" between the words licensed and Synod, be inserted. According to this amendment, the 7th article now reads thus: "No preacher (except he is ordained or licensed by a 'legal' Synod of the United States, and bearing sufficient credentials of the same, and of his moral conduct) is admitted as belonging to our church." See Luther, page 154.

It was also, on motion, *unanimously Resolved*, That the part of the 11th article of our constitution which says "The Christian Catechism in the English language (which namely was formed by Paul Henkel) be hereby repealed and erased. See Luther, page 156.

No. XI. As the complaint is universal, that so many different English catechisms are circulating under the name of being Lutheran, and which are partly abridged or not well translated, it was *unanimously Resolved*, That none of our Ministers can receive any catechism thereby to instruct children, which in the articles of faith or doctrinals, depart from Dr. Luther's small catechism; because we are bound

by the constitution of the General Synod of our church, to make no change in the doctrine of our church. This is the true sense of the constitution, second part, 3d paragraph; and in consequence of this, the consciences of our brethren in Christ can never be afflicted or depressed by new doctrine.

And on motion, it was further *Resolved*, That this Synod does earnestly entreat that committee, which was at the last general Synod, appointed to prepare an English catechism for examination at the next general Synod, not to fail in accomplishing their charge; and that in case that it should not then be accomplished, we would then translate the German small Lutheran catechism, and have it printed in the English language, for our and the South Carolina churches. And as the President of the Synod is a member of the said committee by the general Synod appointed, he is hereby charged to write to his colleagues, and to acquaint them with the above resolution.

This session was then concluded with singing and prayer; and on the 4th of May, at 9 o'clock, we proceeded on the unfinished business after the usual liturgical commencement.

XII. In consideration of our extensive circle of operation in this and other states, it was on motion, *Resolved*, that our Rev. President be authorised, and he is hereby authorised, in extraordinary cases, to give out license to catechets and candidates until the next Synod, they appearing properly qualified and recommended.

XIII. It was further *Resolved*, that such congregations as hereafter apply to us for visits and for stationed Ministers, should be requested to give information what they would do towards supporting a Minister.

XIV. *Resolved*, that the President procure a well bound blank record book, in which our standing rules and principal resolutions may be entered and preserved after the next Synod; and that he extract from all our minutes, such parts as he shall think proper, to be inserted in said book, and lay the same before the next Synod for approbation, and admission in said book.

The payment for said book and labor will be remunerated from our Treasury.

XV. On motion, that the part of our constitution in the twelfth article, which reads, "when that was done during infancy," be erased, it was on deliberation and debate *unanimously* adopted. Luth. page 156.

Resolved that the Rev. Martin Walther be requested, if possible, to visit the congregations in Pendleton county, Va.

XVI. *Resolved*, that this Synod appoint a deputy to the next Evangelical Lutheran Conference in South-Carolina; and that he carry a letter with him from the Secretary to prove that the Rev. Samuel Hersher did act with us in Synod, as their deputy. The Rev. Daniel Sherer was then nominated to prove to our brethren in South-Carolina, at their next conference, our love and attachment.

On the order of the Synod, the Rev. Mr. Shenberg received six books, called Luther, as a donation.

XVII. A question having been proposed, whether we would appoint a day of prayer; the difficulties of gathering congregations during the week, and that the Ministers could only attend at one or two churches in four or five congregations, were considered. The present Ministers and deputies, however, solemnly united to encourage all congregations to unite in prayer, on the first Sunday of August next, (if even no preacher can be present) to the Throne of Grace, and to our Lord Jesus Christ, as the head of all true believers; that he would be pleased to grant to us his gracious assistance; and, also, bless our feeble attempts in spreading his kingdom.

XVIII. Deputies from this to the General Synod of our church, were now elected: and the Rev. G. Shober and Martin Walther, from the ministry; and Mr. Henry Kranck and Daniel Keek, from the congregations, were chosen.

Resolved, that our minutes should be printed in both languages, 300 of each.

XIX. By the majority of votes on ballot, it was decided that our next Synod should be held in Bottetout county, Va. in the Rev. Mr. Walther's congregation, on Roanoke river, on the first Sunday of May, 1826.

And on motion, it was *Resolved*, that this Synod express to our friends in Lincoln county, our warmest thanks for their very friendly invitation to us, to hold our next Synod among them; and we feel truly sorry that the desire of our friends in Lincoln cannot, at this time, be accomplished; a member of our ministry had already promised to the said congregation of Mr. Walther, that, if possible, the Synod should be held there, in order, at the same time, to consecrate a new church, which is now building. This, no doubt, together with Mr. Walther's pressing solicitation, induced the majority to decide as they did. But this Synod will retain in grateful remembrance, the invitation of our friends in Lincoln, until we meet again, in expectation that it will all turn out for the best.

Resolved, That the Rev. Jacob Sherer, and the Rev. Mr. Shenberg, be requested to visit in Lincoln before harvest, and the Rev. Daniel Sherer after harvest; which was by them accepted.

Public thanks were now given by the Rev. President, in the name of the Synod, to our reformed brethren, for the edifying musical introductory, and concluding cantos, which their fine singing choir produced, during every day of our session; also, for the use of their church, and for all the loving kindness, charitable support, and continual attention, which this Synod experienced from all in love united, reformed and Lutheran christians, and concluded with wishing the blessing of the Lord to be their reward.

After all business was finished in love and union, and after a short address by the President, the whole assembly bent their knees with thankful and humble hearts to the eternal shepherd of his flock; and in prayer by the President, we prayed fervently that what we had done, he would bless and convert even the errors to beneficial purposes; to forgive us where we erred, to renew scriptural life in our congregations, to increase in us fervor in fidelity; to stop and prevent all discord; keep us in his union and love, and bless us as we depart: and after the Lord's blessing was pronounced, the Synod was dissolved.

That the foregoing was transacted in the Lutheran Synod for North-Carolina and adjoining states, in May, 1825, is certified by **JACOB SHERER**, *Secretary*.

APPENDIX.

After Synod had adjourned some weeks, Mr. Andrew Sechrist arrived from Washington county, Virginia, with a lay deputy, in expectation that our Synod would only meet on Trinity Sunday. He was a few years ago, first licensed by us to preach, but afterwards suffered himself to be enticed to unite with the Tennessee confederation. He now brought a memorial from three congregations where he stands, in which they solicit to be received into our union; and that we would establish Mr. Sechrist as their preacher, whom they recommended well as to doctrine and moral conduct.

This was an extraordinary case, and required reflection. But, after I had consulted with the Rev. Secretary and the Rev. Jacob Miller, and received their advice and conditional consent, I considered it to be expedient and scriptural to forgive and forget; and, after he had signed a declaration that he was now convinced, that the Ministers of the North Carolina Synod did preach the true Lutheran doctrine; that he was sorry that he had suffered himself to be persuaded for one time to attend the Tennessee confederation, and thereby to desert from the North-Carolina Synod; and that it now is his desire, and the desire of his congregations, steadfastly to unite with the North-Carolina Synod; that he will abide by, and teach the doctrine of original sin, the necessity of being born again out of the holy spirit; the forgiveness of sin, by the atonement of Jesus Christ, on preceding true repentance and faith, and the beneficial use of the means of grace; that he will be faithful and steadfast in this doctrine; and as far as the Lord gives him grace, lead the souls only to Jesus, and through him into his kingdom as redeemed sinners, I gave him licence to perform all ministerial functions to the first of May next, dated June 6, 1825.

The beloved three congregations on the Rich Valley, Charles' Fork, on Holstein, and Cripple Creek, which now entered, of course, according to their request, into our Synods, care and entire union with the same, may be assured of our prayers and well-wishes; and O! may they remain steadfast in true faith. Mr. Sechrist had, during the past year, baptised 25 children, confirmed 15, and he has 55 communicants; he buried but one.

Unto the Rev. Mr. Stanger and Mr. Hauk, I do, in the name of our ministry, render the most cordial thanks for their reported participation in the success of our church; and recommend ourselves to their continued love.

G. SHOBER, *President.*

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